

Fallin	LaTourette	Reynolds
Feeney	Lewis (CA)	Rogers (AL)
Ferguson	Lewis (KY)	Rogers (KY)
Flake	Linder	Rogers (MI)
Forbes	LoBiondo	Rohrabacher
Fortenberry	Lucas	Ros-Lehtinen
Fossella	Lungren, Daniel	Roskam
Fox	E.	Royce
Franks (AZ)	Mack	Ryan (WI)
Frelinghuysen	Manzullo	Sali
Gallely	Marchant	Saxton
Garrett (NJ)	McCarthy (CA)	Schmidt
Gerlach	McCaul (TX)	Sensenbrenner
Gilchrest	McCotter	Sessions
Gingrey	McCrery	Shadegg
Gohmert	McHenry	Shays
Goode	McHugh	Shimkus
Goodlatte	McKeon	Shuler
Granger	McMorris	Shuster
Graves	Rodgers	Simpson
Hall (TX)	Mica	Smith (NE)
Hastert	Miller (FL)	Smith (NJ)
Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)	Smith (TX)
Hayes	Miller, Gary	Souder
Heller	Moran (KS)	Stearns
Hensarling	Murphy, Tim	Sullivan
Henger	Musgrave	Tancredo
Hobson	Myrick	Terry
Hoekstra	Neugebauer	Thornberry
Hulshof	Nunes	Tiahrt
Hunter	Pearce	Tiberi
Inglis (SC)	Pence	Turner
Issa	Peterson (PA)	Upton
Johnson (IL)	Petri	Walberg
Johnson, Sam	Pickering	Walden (OR)
Jones (NC)	Pitts	Walsh (NY)
Jordan	Platts	Wamp
Keller	Poe	Weldon (FL)
King (IA)	Porter	Weller
King (NY)	Price (GA)	Westmoreland
Kingston	Pryce (OH)	Whitfield
Kirk	Putnam	Wicker
Kline (MN)	Radanovich	Wilson (NM)
Knollenberg	Ramstad	Wilson (SC)
Kuhl (NY)	Regula	Wolf
LaHood	Rehberg	Young (AK)
Lamborn	Reichert	Young (FL)
Latham	Renzi	

## NOT VOTING—13

Barrett (SC)	Delahunt	Paul
Cardoza	Dingell	Perlmutter
Carson	Gordon	Waters
Cubin	Jindal	
Davis, Jo Ann	Lee	

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1625

Messrs. HOEKSTRA, SHAYS, and BOOZMAN changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the motion was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, due to a family emergency I missed the following votes on Wednesday, October 3, 2007. I would have voted as follows: Democratic Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the Rule on the Improving Government Accountability Act (H. Res. 701)—“yea”; Democratic Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on the MEJA Expansion and Enforcement Act of 2007 (H. Res. 702)—“yea”; H. Res. 702—Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2740—MEJA Expansion and Enforcement Act of 2007—“yea”; Conyers Amendment. Provides that the Department of Justice (DOJ) Inspector General is not required to refer to the

Counsel of the Office of Professional Responsibility (OPR) of DOJ, allegations of misconduct involving DOJ attorneys and related personnel where the allegations relate to the exercise of the authority of an attorney to investigate, litigate, or provide legal advice—“aye”; Motion to Recommit H.R. 928—“yea”; Final Passage of H.R. 928—Improving Government Accountability Act—“yea”; Democratic Motion to postpone the Vote to Override the President's Veto of the Children's Health Care bill until October 18, 2007—“aye.”

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the motion just considered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. CLARKE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2740.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

## MEJA EXPANSION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 702 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2740.

□ 1626

## IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2740) to require accountability for contractors and contract personnel under Federal contracts, and for other purposes, with Mrs. TAUSCHER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. FORBES) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Ladies and gentlemen of the House, we have never fought a war in which private contractors not only outnumber United States troops, as they do in Iraq, but perform many tasks that are very similar to those histori-

cally performed by our troops. A critical difference, however, is that these contractors, unlike our troops, are not subject to the requirements of military discipline and United States law governing the conduct of warfare. Further, they are also immune from Iraqi law.

As we know, last month contractors working for Blackwater allegedly opened fire in a Baghdad neighborhood, killing at least 11 Iraqi civilians. A witness told a CNN reporter, “Each of their four vehicles opened heavy fire in all directions. They shot and killed everyone in cars facing them and people standing on the street.” Another witness, whose youngest son was killed during the attack, likened the event to “hell, like a scene from a movie.”

This latest incident unfortunately evidences the fact that some of these contractors are abusing their power with impunity, subject to no law whatsoever, domestic or foreign. H.R. 2740 corrects this serious gap in current law.

Specifically, it amends the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act, known as MEJA, in three critical respects: First, it closes the legal gap in current law by making all contractors accountable for their actions. MEJA currently only extends U.S. Federal criminal jurisdiction to felony crimes committed overseas by contractors working on behalf of the Defense Department.

□ 1630

This measure specifies that the act would apply to all contractors, regardless of the agency for which they provide services.

Second, this measure requires that the Inspector General of the Justice Department examine and report on the Department's efforts to investigate and prosecute allegations of misconduct committed by contractors overseas.

Since the Iraq war started, the Department has failed to commence a single prosecution against a contractor under the Military Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act. Sadly, last month's Blackwater incident was not the first time contractors have acted abusively without any accountability.

On Monday, we learned that Blackwater was involved in at least 195 shooting incidents in Iraq since the year 2005. And Blackwater isn't the only culpable company. In 2005, armed contractors from the Zapata contracting firm allegedly fired indiscriminately not only at Iraqi civilians, but also at United States Marines. In 2006, employees of Aegis, another security firm, posted a trophy video on the Internet that showed them shooting civilians. And employees of Triple Canopy, yet another contractor, were fired after alleging that a supervisor engaged in a “joyride shooting” of Iraqi civilians. These cases, and all like them, should be appropriately investigated and prosecuted, if warranted.

Third, H.R. 2740 establishes ground units of the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate allegations of